1	2
Tamil Nadu	36.15 kms; Coastal areas in Chennai North, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thioothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts.
Lakshadweep	132 kms; Coastal areas in the Islands of Agatti, Amini, Andrott, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy.

(c) Planning, investigation and execution of schemes to check sea erosion are the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. These are funded by the State Governments from the Annual Plan funds provided to the States by the Planning Commission under Flood Control. However, in order to tide over the immediate fund constraints faced by the States is implementing anti-sea erosion works on the critical reaches, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (now shifted to State Sector) "Critical Anti Erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" is implemented by Central Water Commission for protection of critical coastal areas of Maritime States/Union Territories. Further, the Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a National Coastal Protection Project to arrange external funding for protection of coastal areas in Maritime States/Union Territories from sea erosion.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate all developmental activities in the Coastal Regulation Zone area for protection of the coastal environment.

Minimum support price of wheat

†*118. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Minimum Support Price of wheat in the country is Rs. 650/- per quintal while in open market this rate is Rs. 1300/- per quintal;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the main reasons behind this crisis is shortsightedness of Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons for sudden hike in the price of wheat; and

(d) the basis of present MSP of wheat in the given circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Wheat for the crop season of 2005-06 is Rs. 650 per quintal which will become effective from April 1, 2006. The month-end wholesale prices which prevailed during November, 2005 - February, 2006 (upto 08.02.2006) at some of the centres are given below:—

Month - end Wholesale Prices

(Rs. Per quintal)

Centre	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006*
Ludhiana	850	850	920	920
Hisar	830	800	950	900
Lucknow	835	845	910	950
Jaipur	875	785	975	1000
Delhi	865	907	1020	973
Rajkot	1000	1100	1100	1050
Patna	850	850	850	900
Nagpur	975	963	1200	1025
Bangalore	1100	1120	1300	1300
Hyderabad	1050	1105	1125	1180

* Upto 08.02.2006

(b) and (c) The wheat prices have increased during the lean season. The low stocks of wheat with FCI have contributed to market sentiments resulting into increase in wheat prices in recent months. However, in order to augment domestic availability of wheat, the Government has decided to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat. Moreover, the new crop would arrive in the market by the end of March which would help soften the prices.

(d) The Government has decided on the support price of wheat for the 2005-06 Rabi season taking into account the recommendations of the

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices. CACP, while formulating its recommendations on price policy considered a number of important factors which include cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation and parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers.

HIV/AIDS prevention courses for truck drivers

*119. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently initiated courses in HIV/AIDS prevention for truck drivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had taken the assistance and advice of ILO in running a programme Surakshit Yaatra Project in Vijayawada which aims at reducing the spread of AIDS through behavioural change;

(d) if so, whether the project has been successful and is now going to be extended to the rest of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Under the National AIDS Control Programme phase-II, groups at greater risk of contacting HIV infection such as truckers (drivers & cleaners) were given special attention. Under the scheme, the truckers are given detailed counseling on HIV/AIDS by trained counselors, provided free services for diagnosis & treatment of Sexually Tract Infections (STIs), condoms, referral to Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centers (VCTCs), treatment for Opportunistic Infections (OIs), etc. In 109 sites in the country, such a package of services is being provided to truckers touring mainly on National Highways (NH). Besides, in 387 projects, interventions are being implemented covering all the high risk groups including truckers.